

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 /080 W
----- 103324

R 270640Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2718

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KATHMANDU 3825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN, CH

SUBJ: NEPAL AS A "ZONE OF PEACE"

1. SUMMARY. THE GON HAS NOW ELABORATED THE "ZONE OF PEACE" IDEA ADVANCED BY KING BIRENDRA DURING HIS CORONATION IN FEBRUARY 1975 AND SEEKS ANY U.S. REACTIONS TO A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES DRAWN UP BY THE GON AND OUR "MORAL SUPPORT" IF A ZONE OF PEACE CAN BE WORKED OUT INVOLVING RELUPROCAL OBLIGATIONS BETWEEN NEPAL AND ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS. END SUMMARY

2. IN TWO CONVERSATIONS ON AUGUST DZT AND 26 FOREIGN SECRETARY KHATRI DISCUSSED WITH ME KING BIRENDRA'S "ZONE OF PEACE" PROPOSAL. KHATRI SAID TZAT NEPAL HAD INTENDED TO CARRY OUT CONSULTATIONS

ON THIS PROPOSAL IN AN ORDERLY SEQUENCE, BEGIN-
NING WITH ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS, THEN EMBRACING ITS OTHER MORE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS, AND THEN TO CONSULTATIONS WITH THE PERMA-
NENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND, HXINALLY OTHER INTERESTED STATES. KHATRI SAID THAT SUCH A SEQUENTIAL CONCEPT OF CONSULTATIONS HAD PROVED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER ARYAL, TRAVELING VIA
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INDIA, IRAN AND THE SOVIET UNION TO THE NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

IN LIMA, HAD ALREADY RECEIVED VARIOUS REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE CONCEPT AND EXPECTED TO ENCOUNTER MORE AT LIMA.

3. KHATRI HANDED ME THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES PREPARED BY THE GON UNDER THE TITLE "THE KINGDOM OF NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE":

QUOTE THE PROPOSAL TO DECLARE NEPAL AS A ZONE OF PEACE IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF RECIPROCITY AND MUTUALITY OF OBLIGATIONS. FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSAL NEPAL IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE THE FOLLOWING OBLIGATIONS PROVIDED OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES WOULD ALSO ACCEPT RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS VIS-A-VIS NEPAL.

A) NEPAL WILL ADHERE TO THE POLICY OF PEACE, NON-ALIGNMENT AND PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE AND WILL CONSISTENTLY ENDEAVOR TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD, REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SYSTEM, AND PARTICULARLY WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, ON THE BASIS OF EQUALITY AND RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

B) NEPAL WILL NOT RESORT TO THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE IN ANY WAY WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF OTHER COUNTRIES.

C) NEPAL WILL SEEK PEACEFULL SETTLEMENT BY ALLDIYUTES BETWEEN IT AND OTHER STATE OR STATES.

D) NEPAL WILL NOT INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER STATES.

C) NEPAL WILL NOT PERMIT ANY ACTIVITY FROM ITS SOIL THAT IS HOSTILE TO ANY OTHER STATE.

F) NEPAL WILL CONTINUE TO HONOUR THE OBLIGATIONS OF ALL THE EXISTING TREATIES WHICH IT HAS CONCLUDED WITH OTHER

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COUNTRIES SO LONG AS THEY REMAIN VALID.

G) IN CONFORMITY WITH ITS POLICY OF PEACE AND NON-ALIGNMENT, NBPAL WILL NOT ENTER INTO MILITARY ALLIANCE NOR WILL IT ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ANY FOREIGN MILITARY BASE ON ITS SOIL. END QUOTE

4. WHEN I NOTED THAT THE PAPER HE HAD GIVEN ME CONTAINED NO REFER-

ENCE TO THE MECHANICS, WHETHER BY OUR RESOLUTION OR OTHERWISE, FOR IMPLEMENTING THE KING'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL THAT NEPAL BE "DECLARED" A ZONE OF PEACE, KHATRI SMUD THAT THE GON INTENDED TO PROCEED VERY SLOWLY AND CAUTIOUSLY ON ANY UN CONSIDERATION OF THE ZONE OF PEACE IDEA AND, IN FACT, DIDHYT INTEND TO RAISE THIS MATTER IN A UN CONTEXT NOW.

5. I TOLD KHATRI THAT ON MY INITIAL READING OF THE DOCUMENT, THESE PRINCIPLES SEEMED WELL SUITED TO NEPAL'S FOREIGN POLICY SITUATION, APPEARED TO BE A PROJECTBN FORWARD OF NEPALESE FOREIGN POLICY AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, AND SEEMED DESIGNED TO HELP ESTABLISH A PATTERN OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FOR NEPAL WHICH WOULD PERMIT IT TO WORK FOR DEVELOPMENT IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE.

6. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTIONS, KHATRI CLARIFIED THAT THE BASIS CONCEPTS WERE: THAT NEPAL ITSELF WOULD BE A "ZONE OF PEACE"; THAT RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS, SUCH AS THOSE IN THE ABOVE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES, WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN BETWEEN NEPAL AND INDCJ AND NEPAL AND CHINA; THAT THE GON HOPED THIS FRAMEWORK WOULD RECEIVE THE "MORAL SUPPORT" OF OTHER COUNTRIES INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, BUT THAT THESE COUNTRIES WOULD NOT BE BOUND BY THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE ZONE OF PEACE ARRANGEMENT; AND THAT AT SOME STAGE, BUT NOT NOW, THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR SECURITY COUNCIL MIGHT BE ASKED TO ENDORSE THE ZONE OF PEACE PROPOSAL, IN WHICH CASE THEY WOULD HOPE FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

7. THUS, KHATRI EMPHASIZED, THE RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS ENVISAGED IN THE NEPALESE PROPOSAL WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY BY INDIA AND CHINA, ILLUSTRATING, KHATRI SAID THAT THE RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE UNDERTAKEN BY INDIA CORRESPONDING TO PWCA B OF THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES WOULD BE THAT INDIA WOULD NOT RESORT

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TO THE USE OR THREAT OF FORCE IN ANY WAY THAT MIGHT ENDANGER THE PEACE AN SECURITY OF NEPAL.

8. IN FURTHER CLARIFICATION, THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAID THAT PARA C OF THE STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES DID NOT ENVISAGE COMPULSORY SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES BUT ONLY AN UNDERTAKING TO SEEK PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE SAID THAT PARA E OF THE PRINCIPLES WAS INTENDED TO BAR BOTH HOSTILE PRESS AND RADIO STATEMENTS AS WELL AS HOSTILE PHYSICAL ACTS. HOWEVER, AS WITH THE OTHER PROJECTED UNDERTAKINGS, INDIA AND CHINA WOULD BE BOUND WITH RESPECT TO "HOSTILE" ACTIVITY DIRECTED AT NEPAL BUT THAT THIS WOULD NOT CONSITUTE AN UNDERTAKING BY INDIA VIS-A-VIS CHINA OR VICE VERSA.

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 OMB-01 IO-10 /080 W
----- 104994

R 270640Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 KATHMANDU 3825

9. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION, KHATRI SAID THAT THE GON
YFD NOT YET REACHED A CONCLUSION AS TO THE FORM WHICH SUCH
RECIPROCAL UNDERTAKINGS BETWEEN NEIVL#AN
ZINDIA AND NEPAL AND
CHINA MIGHT TAKE.

10. FOREIGN SECRETARY K UTRI SAID THE GON WANTED TO LET THE
UNITED STATES KNOW THE STAGE NEPAL HAD REACHED IN ITS THINKING
ON THE ZONE OF PEACE AND TO SEEK ANY REACTIONS WE MIGHT HAVE TO
THE APPROACH THEY YLD ELABORATED ANDNURRHE ABOVE STATEMEC OF
PRINCIPLES. HE AGAIN NOTEDSIHAT THE GON DID CONTEMPLATE U.S.
ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS BUT HOPED THEY WOULD HAVE OUR
"MORAL SUPPORT" IF THEY COULD BE WORKOUT WITH RECIPROCAL OBLIGATIONS
BETWEEN NEPAL AND ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS. I TOLD KHATRI I WOULD
BE GLAD TO SEEK WASHINGTON REACTIONS.

11. COMMENT. THE NEPALESE HAVE WW ADVANCED A STAGE TOWARD
SUBSTANTIVE ELABDRATION OF KING BIRENDRA'S ZONE OFHIEACE IDEA.
IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE ABOVE STATEMENT
OF PRINCIPLES MAYHAVE BEEN ALREADY APROACHED TO INDIA AND CHINA
OR TO OTHERS, ALTHOUGH THE INDIAN DCM HERE SAYS INDIA STILL DOES
NOT KNOW WHAT NEPAL HAS IN MIND. IN ANY EVENT, WE SUSPECT THAT
THE DISCUSSIONS WITH NEPAL'S TWO BIG NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY
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WITH INDIA, AVLL BE A LONG AND TORTUOUS PROCESS, WITH HCH
INDIAN SKEPTICISM TO BE OVKDCOME, IF INDEED IT CAN BE. IN
DQTHESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE ADVOCATE A CONTINUATION OF A VERY LOW
KEY POSTURE ON OUR PART. IN PARTICULAR, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE
THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD AVOID A
PUBLIC STATEMENT OF
OUR VIEWS LEAST UNTIL SUCH TIME AS NEPAL'S PRINCIPAL NEIGHBORS
HAVE
THEMSELVES INDICATED THEIR ATTITUDE TOWARD
THE MORE COMPLETE CONCEPT OF A ZONE OF PEACE WHICH THE NEPALESE
ARE NOW PRESENTING.

12. THE NEPALESE WOULD WELCOME ANY COMMENTS WE MIGHT HAVE ON
THE CONTENT OF THE ZONE OF PEACE PRINCIPLES THEY HAVE DRAWN UP.
SO FAR AS WE CAN SEE, THESE PRINCIPLES ARE CONSISTENT WITH
NEPALESE LONG-TERM INTERESTS AND ESTABLISHED POLICY AND AS A
STATEMENT OF NEP-L'S POLICY, DO NOT CONFLICT WITH U.S. INTERESTS.
EVEN
THOUGH THE NEPALESE DO NOT SEEK TO ENGAGE US IN THE ACCEPT-
ANCE OF SUCH OBLIGATIONS, IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE USEFUL TO
LET THEM HAVE OUR COMMENTS ON POINTS WHERE WE SEE DIFFICULTIES.

13. IN TERMS OF THE NEPALESE WISH FOR OUR "MORAL SUPPORT,"
WE THINK SOME CAUTION IS INDICATED UNTIL THE POSITION OF NEPAL'S
NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY INDIA, IS MOREIOULLY UNDERSTOOD. ACCORD-
INGLY, WE SUGGEST FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION THAT WE MIGHT AT
THC STAGE TELL THE FOREIGN SECRETARY THAT WE HAVE FULL
SYMPATHY FOR NEPAL'S DESIRE TO PROCEED WITH ITS TASK OF
DEVELOPMENT IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF PEACE AND THAT WE THEREFORE
UNDERSTAND THEIR INTEREST IN PURSUING THE IDEA OF NEPAL AS
A ZONE OF PEACE; THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE CONCEPT AS
SUCH OF NEPAL AS A ZONE GI PEACE WHICH CAUSES US CONCERN AND
THAT WHETHER WE COULD GIVE THE PROJECT OUR " MORAL SUPPORT" WILL
DEPEND ON THE ULTIMATE CONTENT OF THE ARRANGEMENTS ARE WORKED
OUT BY NEPAL WITH ITS TWO BIG NEIGHBORS. END COMMENT. CARGO

NOTE : # AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RESOLUTION, NONALIGNED NATIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, ZONE OF PEACE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KATHMA03825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-0169
From: KATHMANDU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750814/aaaaalye.tel
Line Count: 263
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEPAL AS A "ZONE OF PEACE"
TAGS: PFOR, NP, IN, CH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006